

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An interlabial pad comprising:

an absorbent body ~~for absorbing liquid, the absorbent body including a fiber aggregate of fibers;~~ and
a cover body for covering the absorbent body in an enclosing manner,
wherein the interlabial pad has an elongated shape and a substantially elliptical cross section,
and

wherein the absorbent body includes a fiber aggregate in which the fibers are oriented in random directions [[randomly]], [[wherein]] the fiber aggregate including [[includes]]:

a first fiber aggregate located on an upper side of the interlabial pad in a vertical direction when the interlabial pad is worn by a wearer, ~~having an average fiber length 25 mm to 50 mm,~~

a second fiber aggregate located on a lower side of the first fiber aggregate interlabial pad, ~~having an average fiber length 3 mm to 6 mm; and~~

a third fiber aggregate located on a lower side of the second fiber aggregate and on a lower side of the interlabial pad,

wherein the first fiber aggregate is simply layered on the second fiber aggregate and the second fiber aggregate is simply layered on the third fiber aggregate, without additional agents being applied therebetween for bonding the layers,

wherein an average fiber length in each of the first fiber aggregate and the second fiber aggregate is between 25 mm and 50 mm, and an average fiber length in the second fiber aggregate is between 3 mm and 6 mm,

wherein spaces between fibers in the first fiber aggregate and the third fiber aggregate are more flexibly varied than spaces between fibers in the second aggregate layer, and
wherein the fiber aggregate absorbent body has a flexural rigidity, measurable as a [[as]] Gurley bending resistance ranging in a range from 25 mg to 130 mg; and [[wherein]] a ratio of flexural rigidities in two mutually orthogonal directions ranging between the longitudinal or the lateral direction and the thickness direction of the absorbent body is in a range from 0.5 and [[to]] 2.0.

2. (Currently amended) The interlabial pad according to Claim 1;

wherein the flexural rigidities in two mutually orthogonal directions of the fiber aggregate are substantially the same.

3. (Currently amended) The interlabial pad according to Claim 1;

wherein the absorbent body is formed by layering the first fiber aggregate, the second fiber aggregate and the third fiber aggregate, each differing and another fiber aggregate that differ from the others each other in tensile elongation; and

wherein the first fiber aggregate and the third fiber aggregate each have [[has]] a higher tensile elongation than that of the second fiber aggregate.

4. (Currently amended) The interlabial pad according to Claim 3,

wherein the first fiber aggregate and the third fiber aggregate, in a wet state in which liquids have been absorbed, each have positioned at the vestibular floor side is formed by layering solitary or mixed fibers selected from the group consisting of rayon, acetate, natural cotton, super absorbent polymer fibers and synthetic fibers, and has a tensile elongation of at least 60% or more than that in of a tensile elongation in a dry state even in a wet state in which liquids are absorbed.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Withdrawn) The interlabial pad according to Claim 1;

wherein the interlabial pad is a substantially planar interlabial pad; and

wherein the cover body includes a liquid permeable surface side sheet and a liquid impermeable back face side sheet;

wherein the absorbent body is formed by layering the fiber aggregate and another fiber aggregate that differ from each other in tensile elongation; and

wherein one of the fiber aggregates which is positioned at the vestibular floor side has a higher tensile elongation than that of the other fiber aggregate which is positioned at the side opposite to the vestibular floor side.

7. (Withdrawn) The interlabial pad according to Claim 6;

wherein a proportion of the fiber aggregate having the higher tensile elongation and a proportion of the fiber aggregate having the lower tensile elongation are substantially the same in the thickness direction of the absorbent body.

8. (Withdrawn) The interlabial pad according to Claim 6;

wherein a proportion of the fiber aggregate having the higher tensile elongation is larger than a proportion of the fiber aggregate having the lower tensile elongation in the thickness direction of the absorbent body at a vicinity of a longitudinal direction central line.

9. (Withdrawn) The interlabial pad according to Claim 8,

wherein the absorbent body comprises the fiber aggregate having the higher tensile elongation at outer peripheral parts and being disposed over the entire thickness direction.

10. (Withdrawn) The interlabial pad according to Claim 6,

wherein the fiber aggregate having the higher tensile elongation is formed by layering solitary or mixed fibers selected from the group consisting of rayon, acetate, natural cotton, super absorbent polymer fibers and synthetic fibers; and

wherein the tensile elongation of the fiber aggregate having the higher tensile elongation is maintained at 60% or more, compared to that in the dry state even in the wet state in which liquids are absorbed.

11. (Withdrawn) The interlabial pad according to Claim 6;

wherein a dividing region which divides the absorbent body is provided at least substantially along the longitudinal direction central line at a rear of the absorbent body.

12. (Currently amended) The interlabial pad according to Claim 2;
wherein the absorbent body is formed by layering the first fiber aggregate, [[and]] the second fiber aggregate and the third fiber aggregate, and wherein each of the first fiber aggregate, the second fiber aggregate and the third fiber aggregate [[that differ]] from each other in tensile elongation; and
wherein the first fiber aggregate and the third fiber aggregate each have [[has]] a higher tensile elongation than that of the second fiber aggregate.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Withdrawn) The interlabial pad according to Claim 2;
wherein the interlabial pad is a substantially planar interlabial pad;
wherein the cover body that covers the absorbent body includes a liquid permeable surface side sheet and a liquid impermeable back face side sheet; and
wherein the absorbent body is formed by layering the fiber aggregate and another fiber aggregate that differ from each other in tensile elongation; and one of the fiber aggregates which is positioned at the vestibular floor side has a higher tensile elongation than that of the other fiber aggregate which is positioned at the side opposite to the vestibular floor side.

15. (Withdrawn) The interlabial pad according to Claim 7, wherein the fiber aggregate having the higher tensile elongation is formed by layering s solitary or mixed fibers selected from

the group consisting of rayon, acetate, natural cotton, super absorbent polymer fibers and synthetic fibers; and

wherein the tensile elongation of the fiber aggregate having the higher tensile elongation is maintained at 60% or more than that in the dry state even in the wet state in which liquids are absorbed.

16. (Withdrawn) The interlabial pad according to Claim 8,

wherein the fiber aggregate having the higher tensile elongation is formed by layering solitary solitary or mixed fibers selected from the group consisting of rayon, acetate, natural cotton, super absorbent polymer fibers and synthetic fibers; and

wherein the tensile elongation of the fiber aggregate having the higher tensile elongation is maintained at 60% or more than that in the dry state even in the wet state in which liquids are absorbed.

17. (Withdrawn) The interlabial pad according to Claim 9,

wherein the fiber aggregate having the higher tensile elongation is formed by layering solitary or mixed fibers selected from the group consisting of rayon, acetate, natural cotton, super absorbent polymer fibers and synthetic fibers; and

wherein the tensile elongation of the fiber aggregate having the higher tensile elongation is maintained at 60% or more than that in the dry state even in the wet state in which liquids are absorbed.

18. (Withdrawn) The interlabial pad according to Claim 7;
wherein a dividing region which divides the absorbent body is provided at least substantially along the longitudinal direction central line at a rear of the absorbent body.

19. (Withdrawn) The interlabial pad according to Claim 8;
wherein a dividing region which divides the absorbent body is provided at least substantially along the longitudinal direction central line at a rear of the absorbent body.

20. (Withdrawn) The interlabial pad according to Claim 9;
wherein a dividing region which divides the absorbent body is provided at least substantially along the longitudinal direction central line at a rear of the absorbent body.

21. (Withdrawn) The interlabial pad according to Claim 10;
wherein a dividing region which divides the absorbent body is provided at least substantially along the longitudinal direction central line at a rear of the absorbent body.

22., 23 (Canceled).